Subject: "Coinville Numismatic Society" (IA)

Saxton, Barton H.
[Fort Dodge, IA]

1914

August 12, 1914.

Mr. R. H. Saxton
P. O. Box 735,
Fort Dodge,
Iowa.

My dear Saxton:-

I read with considerable interest your account of the meeting of your Local Numismatic Club in Mehl's. I am very glad to see that you have such a live bunch and that they are collecting on the most approved lines. Also I want to congratulate the secretary on the very able manner in which he handled the report. I trust that secretaries of other Societyes will take a tumble and see that their organizations do likewise.

I am surprised that no one in your vicinity has made any profound study of the shape and size of holes that often appear in rare and common coins. Ancomprehensive catalogue of this would undoubtedly make the junk box a source of delight to many collectors.

The pedigree of coins, I see in one or two instances, you touch upon. A more extended listing and card indexing, would be of great interest. Every day people come into the building here and preface their remarks with the statement that "these pieces have been in the family from dates ranging from 30 to 100 years. 50 years seems to be the most popular time duration. Also investigation should be made on the ownership of coins. A good many people that come in here are not the owners of the pieces but belong to their wives relatives, or if the person bringing them in is not married, they belong to their neighbors or room mate. The standards in vogue to-day as regards condition of coins is all wrong and should be remedied. Old coins should invariably be worn, otherwise they do not bear out their age. Also, a coin is helped very much, provided it is over 50 years old, by being badly corroded by a long hibination in the ground.

Now to turn to other matters. Cannot you give us some serious article on some subject for the American Journal of Numismatics which will appear in the early part of 1915? You are familar with this and you see that we are prepared to illustrate an article in a complete manner, and we are also prepared to furnish 50 reprints to the author. If you could give us some monograph, we would appreciate it as soon as possible.

INCORPORATED 1846

The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company

Hartford, Connecticut

BURTON H. SAXTON, GENERAL AGENT
302-3 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

FORT DODGE, IOWA. August 15th, 1914.

Howland Wood, Esq.,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, at 156th St.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am glad to know the "Coinville Numismatic Society" has interested you. Your suggestions for future consideration, especially in reference to the desirability of having an old coin look the part, are timely and good.

I hardly know what to say about an article for the Journal. There is a subject which I have for some time planned to take up, that of Ruskin's interest in coins, but it will require a very thorough study of Ruskin; while I am tolerably familiar with his writings, and quite so with his life, a good deal of reading will still be necessary. I do not doubt that many of the Society's members would be interested in Ruskin as a man, art critic and author, as well as in the use he made of ancient coins; there are possibilities there for a mighty fine paper, but until I could get at it in earnest it would be hard to say how desirable my own production might be. Let me take this under advisement for a short time. Your opinion of the subject and as to how suitable it might be for the Journal would be welcomed.

Very truly,

Burton H. Saxton

General Agent.

BHS-N.

INCORPORATED 1846

The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company

Hartford, Connecticut

BURTON H. SAXTON, GENERAL AGENT
302-3 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

FORT DODGE, IOWA. October 20th, 1914.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, 156th Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am afraid it will be out of the question for me to furnish the article I mentioned for the next issue of the Journal. I expected to have access to a certain set of Ruskin which is very scarce and very high priced, in order to get the material I wanted in the least time and as completely as possible. This set is not available and I would not attempt to prepare the paper otherwise.

At some later date I might be able to do this and if so, would be glad to devote the necessary time to the purpose. Ruskin's place in literature is a large one and his interest in coins, chiefly from the artistic and mythological point of view, should be of great interest to most of the members.

Very truly yours,

Burton H. Saxton

General Agent.

BHS-N.